

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
INRE-00 DOEE-00 /026 W  
-----025116 051049Z /21  
O 050959Z MAY 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9211  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06793

EXDIS USCTB

PASS TO DOE

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3  
TAGS: PARM US UK UR  
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: USSR PLENARY STATEMENT,  
MAY 4, 1978

CTB MESSAGE NO. 190

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED AT PLENARY  
MAY 4 BY HEAD OF USSR DELEGATION. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. CHAIRMAN, ALLOW ME FIRST OF ALL TO GREET YOU,  
AMB CRADOCK, THE HEAD OF THE UK DELEGATION, AT WHOSE  
INVITATION WE ARE CONDUCTING OUR FIRST MEETING AFTER THE  
BREAK HERE IN THE UK MISSION, AND ALSO ALL THE MEMBERS  
AND STAFF OF THE UK DELEGATION.

ALLOW ME TO GREET THE US DELEGATION AND ALL ITS  
MEMBERS, STAFF AND ADVISERS.

I AM VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE LARGE AND POSITIVE JOB  
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WHICH HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT HERE UP UNTIL NOW, AND WITH  
THE COMPLICATIONS WHICH ACCOMPANIED THIS WORK.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE ENTIRE TIME I PERSONALLY  
HAVE BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED AND AWARE OF ALL THE DIFFI-  
CULTIES WHICH HAVE ACCOMPANIED THIS WORK THROUGHOUT THE  
ENTIRE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND L.I. BREZHNEV, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR, SENT ME HERE AS THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION, CONSIDERING THE CRUCIAL PERIOD OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH NOW ARE ENTERING A DECISIVE PHASE.

AFTER THE WORKING RECESS WHICH WE HOPE WAS USEFUL FOR ALL DELEGATIONS, WE BEGIN TODAY THE NEXT REGULAR ROUND OF TRILATERAL TALKS. THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS COME TO GENEVA IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TOGETHER WITH THE US AND THE UK THE WORK BEGUN IN JULY OF LAST YEAR TOWARD ACHIEVING THE SPEEDIEST AGREEMENT ON A COMPLETE AND GENERAL PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS, WHICH IS VITAL IN ORDER TO MOVE TOWARD CONTROLLING THE ARMS RACE AND TOWARD TRANSITION TO REAL DISARMAMENT.

IN A STATEMENT ON APRIL 7 THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CC CPSU AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET, L.I. BREZHNEV, SAID, IN PARTICULAR: "FOR ALL THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS OR THAT PROBLEM AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO TASK MORE IMPORTANT NOR ONE THAT AFFECTS THE FATE OF EVERY PERSON ON EARTH MORE THAN ACHIEVING REAL DISARMAMENT. TO END THE ARMS RACE, TO  
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ENSURE PROGRESS TOWARD REDUCING AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS ELIMINATING THE THREAT OF THERMONUCLEAR CATASTROPHE-- THIS IS THE MAIN PROBLEM ON THE AGENDA OF OUR LIFE TODAY."

IT SEEMS TO ME THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE SOLUTION OF SUCH A PROBLEM AS THE COMPLETE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN PRESSING, WOULD, TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, FACILITATE REDUCING THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR BY PLACING AN EFFECTIVE BARRIER IN THE WAY OF IMPROVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SPREADING THEM THROUGHOUT THE PLANET. TAKING THIS INTO ACCOUNT, THE SOVIET DELEGATION IS CHARGED BY ITS GOVERNMENT WITH MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDE THE TRILATERAL TALKS AND ACHIEVE A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT.

ALL THE OBJECTIVE PREREQUISITES FOR THIS EXIST. OUR THREE DELEGATIONS REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED DURING PREVIOUS ROUNDS THEIR INTEREST IN REACHING AGREEMENT. IN THE JOINT STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT ON MARCH 16, THE USSR, US, AND UK STRESSED THAT THEY "WILL CONTINUE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO COMPLETE THE TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." ONE

CAN NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT IN PAST MONTHS CERTAIN  
MOVEMENT FORWARD WAS MADE IN THE RESOLUTION OF A NUMBER  
OF TREATY ISSUES, A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF PRINCIPLE  
ON SEVERAL ASPECTS WAS WORKED OUT, AND THE FORMULATION  
OF PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY AND THE SEPARATE AGREEMENT  
WAS BEGUN. ON THOSE QUESTIONS WHERE DIFFERENCES AMONG  
THE SIDES STILL REMAIN, A CERTAIN NARROWING OF DIFFER-  
ENCES BEGAN TO SHOW. THE EXTENSIVE AND THOROUGH EXCHANGE  
OF VIEWS HELD IN THE WORKING GROUPS AND AT PLENARY

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 06793

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PASS TO DOE

MEETINGS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO CLARIFY GREATLY THE POSITIONS  
OF THE SIDES AND TO LAY DOWN A GOOD BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT  
WORK ON FORMULATING TREATY PROVISIONS.

TOGETHER WITH THIS, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT PROGRESS IN  
OUR WORK WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY MORE RAPID IF OUR  
WESTERN PARTNERS HAD NOT AT TIMES ADVANCED DELIBERATELY  
UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS INFRINGING ON NATIONAL SECURITY  
INTERESTS. AS THE EXPERIENCE OF ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIA-  
TIONS SHOWS, ANY AGREEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY ON THE  
BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NOT DAMAGING THE SECURITY OF  
THE SIDES AND OF RESPECTING THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF  
ALL ITS PARTICIPANTS. THIS IS TRUE THE MORE SO OF SUCH  
AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AS THAT OF PROHIBITING NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
TESTS. IT WOULD HARDLY FACILITATE THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIA-  
TIONS WORKING OUT A DRAFT TREATY TO OVERLOAD IT WITH  
EXCESSIVE DETAILS OF A TECHNICAL CHARACTER WHICH OFTEN

HAVE NO DIRECT RELATION TO THE SUBJECT OF THE TREATY  
UNDER NEGOTIATION.

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THE SOVIET DELEGATION IS FULLY AWARE OF THE COMPLEXITY  
OF THE PROBLEM BEING DISCUSSED AT THE TALKS, A PROBLEM  
WHICH HAS RESISTED SOLUTION OVER A LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME.  
WE, HOWEVER, ARE CONFIDENT THAT, GIVEN THE POLITICAL WILL  
AND RESOLVE OF ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE TALKS, AND ON THE  
CONDITION THAT THEY DISPLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH, ALL  
THE ISSUES REMAINING AT THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE RESOLVED  
ON THE BASIS OF A JUST AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE.  
AS L. I. BREZHNEV SAID ON APRIL 25, "I WOULD LIKE  
TO HOPE THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE CARRIED THROUGH TO THE  
END AND A SUITABLE TREATY WILL BE SIGNED IN THE NEAR  
FUTURE."

THE SOVIET DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO MAKE THE ROUND  
OF TALKS BEGINNING TODAY THE DECISIVE AND, POSSIBLY, THE  
CONCLUDING STAGE IN THE WORKING OUT AND AGREEING UPON A  
TREATY ON THE COMPLETE AND GENERAL PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS TESTS, WHICH WOULD BE A TANGIBLE SUCCESS IN THE  
CAUSE OF REDUCING THE THREAT OF OUTBREAK OF A NEW WORLD  
WAR AND IN THE CURBING OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.

IN CLOSING, MAY I WISH ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS  
SUCCESS IN THE IMPORTANT MISSION WHICH THEY ARE CARRYING OUT  
HERE ON THE INSTRUCTION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS.  
END TEXT. JOHNSON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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